



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

*Protect. Promote. Prosper.*

**Agricultural Water Quality Program**  
635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-  
2532  
503.986.4700 | Oregon.gov/ODA

Date

Name/Address

:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is evaluating agricultural activities across the state in select watersheds, known as Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs), to identify opportunities to improve water quality. We have evaluated agricultural activities in Sherman and Wasco County watersheds and your property was evaluated. The evaluation was completed using publicly available aerial imagery (e.g. Google Earth) and by field verifications from publicly accessible areas. ODA does not enter private property without permission and always seeks to cooperatively work with landowners to improve water quality on agricultural lands.

You would have been invited to a public open house where we would have met landowners in person and discussed the SIA initiative, shared results, and provided information and resources, but due to COVID-19 restrictions for indoor public gatherings, we are instead sending this letter to engage you in the SIA process. ODA recently recorded a virtual open house to provide information about the SIA and what it means for you and your property. You can watch the presentation by typing the following link into your web browser:

<https://youtu.be/6dRdzrBEN4E>

For assistance, please contact me (contact information below) or the Sherman Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at (541)-705-5070 or <http://www.shermancountyswcd.com/>. The SWCD is your local, non-regulatory resource of conservation information and technical assistance and are available to assist you in addressing agricultural water quality management. ODA may contact you to determine if agricultural activities are being managed to achieve compliance with Area Rules.

Enclosed with the letter is the Eastern Lower Deschutes SIA, overview, landowner Self-Assessment Tool, a summary of the Lower Deschutes Area Plan and Area Rules, and statewide SIA outreach flyer.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I hope you watch the presentation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Theresa DeBardelaben  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Phone: (503) 931-1754  
E-mail: [theresa.debardelaben@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:theresa.debardelaben@oda.oregon.gov)

Enc: Eastern Lower Deschutes SIA Overview, Landowner Self-Assessment Tool, Lower Deschutes Area Plan and Area Rules Summary, and Statewide SIA Outreach Flyer.

cc: Sherman County SWCD  
Wasco County SWCD

